

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 SPC-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

NSC-07 DRC-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 TAR-02 /116 W

----- 093850

R 042042Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8095

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-CDG AIRPORT ISSUE

REF: PARIS 7028

SUMMARY: PENDING OUTCOME OF FOREIGN MINISTRY EFFORT  
SECURE IMPROVED CONNECTING SERVICES FOR US CARRIERS  
AT CDG AIRPORT, TROUBLES BESETTING NEW AIRPORT  
ARE GIVING IT A BAD NAME IN PRESS. BOYCOTT BY AIR  
FRANCE CREWS AND NECESSITY FOR AIR FRANCE TO CHARTER  
AIRCRAFT FOR CDG SERVICE ARE NOT LIKELY TO MAKE  
AIR FRANCE AMENABLE TO PROVIDING BETTER CONNECTING  
SERVICES. NET RESULT IS CONTINUED BLEAK OUTLOOK  
AS REGARDS COMPETITIVE POSITION OF US CARRIERS  
BASED AT CDG.

1. SINCE DELIVERY OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE ON CDG  
AIRPORT ISSUE (REFTEL), WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOREIGN  
MINISTRY HAS BEEN DOING BATTLE WITH OTHER GOF  
SERVICES CONCERNED, AND NOTABLY SGAC, IN ORDER SECURE  
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IMPROVEMENT IN CDG CONNECTING SERVICES BUT WE HAVE

NO READING YET ON WHERE THINGS STAND. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE'S ASSISTANT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO HAS BEEN PURSUING PROBLEM IN HER ABSENCE, TOLD US THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN MAKING A STRONG CASE ON NEED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION SINCE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US CARRIERS WAS "FLAGRANT."

2. IN MEANTIME, CDG AIRPORT IS RECEIVING A VERY BAD PRESS IN FRANCE IN ITS FIRST WEEKS OF OPERATION. AFTER ADVERSE PUBLICITY GENERATED BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' CONTENTIONS THAT AIR TRAFFIC SITUATION OVER CDG WAS UNSAFE, PRESS HAS ZEROED IN ON A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS SUCH AS LONG WAITS FOR BAGGAGE DELIVERY ON INCOMING FLIGHTS; INADEQUATE DIRECTION SIGNS ENABLING TRAVELERS TO BECOME EASILY LOST IN VAST NEW TERMINAL; ILL-INFORMED PERSONNEL ON DUTY; BREAKDOWNS IN PEOPLE-MOVER WALKWAYS AND ESCALATORS ESSENTIAL TO TRAFFIC CIRCULATION WITHIN TERMINAL; ABSENCE OF TAXIS FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS; POOR BUS SERVICE TO STILL INCOMPLETE AIR TERMINAL AT PORTE MAILLOT. WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE LE POINT IN VERY CRITICAL ARTICLE WONDERS WHAT SITUATION WILL BE IN PEAK SUMMER PERIOD WHEN CONFUSION IS ALREADY SO GREAT IN PRESENT PERIOD OF LIGHT TRAFFIC.

3. BOYCOTT OF CDG BY AIR FRANCE FLIGHT CREWS (PARIS 6760) SEEMS TO BE EFFECTIVE, FOR AIR FRANCE HAS BEEN COMPELLED LEASE AIRCRAFT AND CREWS FROM OTHER CARRIERS IN ORDER ASSURE CONNECTING FLIGHTS FROM CDG. ONE AIR FRANCE PILOT OBSERVING BOYCOTT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR HAVING DIVERTED HIS 747 FROM GUADELOUPE TO ORLY INSTEAD OF LANDING AT CDG, WITH

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RESULT THAT ARRIVING AS WELL AS DEPARTING PASSENGERS HAD TO BE SHUTTLED BY BUS BETWEEN THE TWO AIRPORTS. AIR FRANCE HAS MADE SOME CONCESSIONS TO EMPLOYEES SEEKING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR WORK AT CDG, E.G., INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE (FROM RESIDENCE TO PLACE OF WORK) AND SPECIAL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE SOLELY FOR EMPLOYEES BETWEEN ORLY AND CDG. HOWEVER, MANAGEMENT CONTINUES TO BALK AT DEMAND THAT TIME REQUIRED FOR GROUND TRAVEL BETWEEN CDG AND ORLY COUNT AS FLYING TIME. ILLUSTRATIVE OF PROFUNDITY OF ISSUES AT STAKE IS MAJOR GRIEVANCE OF FLIGHT CREWS THAT BEGINNING WORK AT ORLY AND ENDING AT CDG REQUIRES TRAVEL ACROSS PARIS TO PICK UP AUTOMOBILE AND DRIVE HOME AT END OF DAY. (MANAGEMENT IS LEERY OF ESTABLISHING PRECEDENTS SINCE, ACCORDING PRESS, IT APPEARS SEVERAL AIR FRANCE PILOTS HAVE THEIR "RESIDENCE" ON FRENCH RIVIERA AND TRAVEL "HOME" IN JUMP SEAT ON AIR FRANCE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS BETWEEN THEIR OWN ASSIGNMENTS.)

4. AFP REPORTS FRENCH PILOTS' ASSOCIATION HAS JUST SERVED NOTICE ON AIR FRANCE THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL GO ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRIKE FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 9 UNLESS PILOT WHO DIVERTED 747 FROM GUADELOUPE IS REINSTATED.

5. COMMENT: LABOR PROBLEMS AND CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS OF AIR FRANCE ARE HARDLY KEYS TO INCITE AIR FRANCE TO BE MORE RECEPTIVE THAN IN PAST TO GOVERNMENT PRESSURES TO AUGMENT CONNECTING SERVICES OFFERED FROM CDG. AS FOR INCIDENTS MARRING ONSET OF AIRLINE OPERATIONS AT CDG, MANY OF THESE ARE DOUBTLESS NORMAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN LAUNCHING ANY NEW AND COMPLEX AIRPORT (E.G., DALLAS-FORT WORTH EXPERIENCE). HOWEVER, BAD PRESS WHICH CDG IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING WILL NOT ENHANCE PASSENGER ACCEPTANCE OF NEW AIRPORT, THUS MEANING FURTHER DETERIORATION OF COMPETITIVE POSITION

OF US CARRIERS OPERATING THERE.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR TRAFFIC, PRESS COMMENTS, BOYCOTTS, AIRPORTS, LABOR STRIKES, WORKING CONDITIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D740076-0888  
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